

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221454

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR,PGOV, UR
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SUBJECT: PROTEST OF MILITARY LIAISON MISSION INCIDENT /

REF: USCINCEUR 290010ZAUG

1. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY (EUR) VLE CALLED IN
SOVIET MINISTER-COUNSELOR BESSMERTNYKH AUGUST 30 TO

DELIVER STRONG WRITTEN AND ORAL PROTEST OVER AUGUST 28 INCIDENT IN GDR WHERE SOVIET TROOPS FIRED ON AND HIT US MLM VEHICLE IN NON-RESTRICTED AREA.

2. VINE HANDED OVER DIPLOMATIC NOTE, DESCRIBED INCIDENT, AND NOTED THAT INCIDENTS INVOLVING MLM IN PAST HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH BY US AND USSR MILITARY IN GERMANY. THIS PARTICULAR AFFAIR, HOWEVER, WAS QUITE SERIOUS AND WE EXPECT THAT STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO PREVENT RECURRENCE. VINE STATED THAT A PROTEST WAS BEING LODGED CONCURRENTLY BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF USAREUR TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF GSFG.

3. BESSMERTNYKH ASKED WHETHER IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT SOVIET PERSONNEL HAD DONE THE SHOOTING. VINE ASSURED HIM THAT THE EVIDENCE WAS CLEAR. BESSMERTNYKH STATED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE INCIDENT, AND

PROMISED TO TRANSMIT THE NOTE OF PROTEST TO MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY.

4. FYI, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF US NOTE:

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WISHES TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS A FLAGRANT, UNPROVOKED AND VIOLENT BREACH OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE HUEBNER-MALININ AGREEMENT.

AT 1410 HOURS ON THE 28TH OF AUGUST, LIEUTENANT COLONEL KERR AND STAFF SERGEANT MARTIN, OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY LIAISON MISSION, IN VEHICLE NO. 27, WERE INTENTIONALLY FIRED UPON BY SOVIET TROOPS ON A MILITARY TRAIN MOVING ON THE LINE BETWEEN NEUSTADT (DOSSE) AND NEURUPPIN. THIS LOCATION IS NOT WITHIN A PERMANENT RESTRICTED AREA. AT LEAST TEN SHOTS WERE FIRED, OF WHICH FOUR STRUCK THE VEHICLE. ONE ROUND STRUCK WITHIN 25 CENTIMETERS OF SERGEANT MARTIN.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROTESTS THE ACTIONS OF THE SOVIET SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT AND WISHES TO STATE THAT IT EXPECTS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF THE SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO DISCIPLINE THE SOVIET SOLDIERS INVOLVED AND TO PRECLUDE THE RECURRENCE OF SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE AND DANGEROUS INCIDENT. CHRISTOPHER

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